

1. (AMENDED)

Method of initiating services in a

telecommunications network including at least one switching point and at least two control points for controlling services, which control points each have a unique address, in which method a service request is sent by the switching point to the control point in order to initiate a service, the method comprising

at least two control point addresses are set to which a service request can be sent and

a service request is sent to the control point addresses set one at a time, until the service is initiated at one of the addresses.

2. (AMENDED)

Method according to claim 1, wherein

the service request is sent to one address and

when this address does not initiate the service, the service request is sent to another address, until the service is initiated at one of the addresses.

3. (AMENDED)

Method according to claim 2, wherein

at least one control point provides the switching point with congestion information,

the service request is sent to one address selected on the basis of the congestion information, and

when this address does not initiate the service, the service request is sent to another address selected on the basis of the congestion information, until the service is initiated at one of the addresses.

4. (AMENDED)

Method according to claim 1, wherein

the telecommunications network is an intelligent network and

the addresses are set in the trigger data of IN-services.

5. (AMENDED) Method according to claim 2, wherein a priority indication is attached to the addresses set and another address is selected on basis of the priority indication.

6. (AMENDED) Method according to claim 2, wherein the service request is sent to another address when the previous address does not respond.

7. (AMENDED) Method according to claim 2, wherein the service request is sent to another address when the previous address refuses to initiate the service.

8. (AMENDED) Method according to claim 1 wherein the re-sending of the service request is controlled by a limit.

9. (AMENDED) Method of initiating services in a telecommunications network including at least one switching point and at least two control points for controlling services, which control points each have a unique address, in which method a service request is sent by the switching point to the control point in order to initiate a service, and the switching point has congestion information of at least one control point the method comprising:

at least two control point addresses are set to which a service request can be sent and

a service request is sent to a control point address selected on the basis of the congestion information.

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10. (AMENDED) Method according to claim 9, wherein the congestion information is sent by at least one control point, which congestion information restricts the rate at which service requests are sent to this control point.

11. (AMENDED) Method according to claim 9, wherein the congestion information is based on the number of service requests sent by the switching point to the control point.

12. (AMENDED) Method according to claim 10, wherein the address which still has free capacity according to the congestion information is selected.

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13. (AMENDED) Method according to claim 9, wherein the address which has the least restricting congestion information is selected.

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14. (AMENDED) Method according to claim 9, wherein the service request is sent to one address selected on the basis of the congestion information and when this address does not initiate the service, the service request is sent to another address selected on the basis of the congestion information, until the service is initiated at one of the addresses.

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15. (AMENDED) Method according to claim 14, wherein a maximum number for initiation attempts is set, it is checked whether the service is initiated at the latest address, it is checked whether the maximum number of initiation attempts is reached, and the service request is sent to another address selected on the basis of the congestion information, until the result of one of the checks is "true".

16. (AMENDED) Method according to claim 14, wherein the service request is sent to another address when the previous address does not respond.

17. (AMENDED) Method according to claim 14, wherein the service request is sent to another address when the previous address refuses to initiate the service.

18. (AMENDED) Method according to claim 9, wherein the telecommunications network is an intelligent network and the addresses are set in the trigger data of IN-services.

19. (AMENDED) A telecommunications network including at least one switching point, at least two control points for controlling services, which control points each have a unique address, and a database for storing information relating to services, in which network the switching point sends a service request to the control point in order to initiate a service,

wherein

in the database, at least two control point addresses are stored to which a service request can be sent and

the switching point is adapted to send a service request to the set control point addresses one at a time, until the service is initiated at one of the addresses.

20. (AMENDED) A switching point for a telecommunications network including at least one switching point, at least two control points for controlling services, which control points each have a unique address, and a database for storing information relating to services, in which network the switching point sends a service request to the control point in order to initiate a service,

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wherein the switching point is adapted
to receive a list of at least two control point addresses to which a service
request can be sent and
to send a service request to the set control point addresses one at a time, until
the service is initiated at one of the addresses.

21. (AMENDED) A telecommunications network including at least one
switching point, at least two control points for controlling services, which control points
each have a unique address, and a database for storing information relating to services,
in which network the switching point sends a service request to the control point in order
to initiate a service and the switching point has congestion information of at least one
control point,

wherein
in the database, at least two control point addresses are stored to which a
service request can be sent and
the switching point is adapted to send a service request to a control point
address selected on the basis of the congestion information.

22. (AMENDED) A switching point for a telecommunications network
including at least one switching point, at least two control points for controlling services,
which control points each have a unique address, and a database for storing information
relating to services, in which network the switching point sends a service request to the
control point in order to initiate a service and the switching point has congestion
information of at least one control point,

wherein the switching point is adapted